CA2ALPWS
A56
1988-89 c.2

Alberta
PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

ANNUAL REPORT
1988/1989

90-05407/

Alberta
PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

Office of the Minister

132 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 2B6 403/427-3666

The Honourable Dr. David Carter
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta
325 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Sir:

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of Alberta Public Safety Services for the year ending March 31, 1989.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Kowalski
MINISTER
Alberta Public Safety Services

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Report of the Managing Director **1**

Disaster Services Division **3**
Plans and Operations Branch 3
Disaster Health Services 4
Disaster Social Services 4
Field Services Branch 5
Disaster Assistance 6

Training Division **9**

Dangerous Goods Control Division **11**
Responsibilities 11
Legislation 11
Program Implementation 11
Resources 12
Facilities Inspection Branch 12
On-Highway Inspection Branch 13
Compliance Information Centre 13
Regulatory Standards and Approvals Branch 14
Compliance Information Centre Statistics 15

Program Support Divisions **17**
Administration Division 17
Personnel Division 17
Communications Group 17
Library 18

Appendices
Appendix I Program Expenditures 19
Appendix II Department Overview 20
Appendix III Legislation 21
Appendix IV Emergency Response Report Summary 22
Appendix V Health Service Training Programs 24
Appendix VI Mock Disaster Exercises 24
Appendix VII Central Courses 25
Appendix VIII Extension Courses 26
Appendix IX Courses Outside of Alberta 27

REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

Public Safety Services is the Alberta Government agency responsible for promoting public safety in the province. The agency manages two specific programs; the Disaster Preparedness, Planning, and Response Program and the Dangerous Goods Control Program. These two programs help individuals, municipalities, industry and the government itself to be prepared, trained, and ready to deal with emergencies and disasters when they occur. The programs also ensure that millions of tons of dangerous goods move as safely as possible on roads and highways in the province. Public Safety Services networks with many other programs of the government that impact on public safety to promote their coordination and enhance their positive effect on our daily lives.

During 1988 Albertans faced a number of natural and man-made disasters. Although none of them approached the magnitude of the 1987 tornado, their impact on communities and families in the province was nevertheless severe. Most notable of these was the serious flooding in the Lesser Slave Lake region in July and, later in the summer, in the northeast section of the City of Calgary. While these events are tragic and their impact is felt for many months, even years, after the debris is cleared away, they serve to remind us in a most pointed fashion that time and effort spent on ensuring that we are well prepared is a good investment. Good preparedness means not only having a community plan in place which is familiar to all of the response organizations, but also, and perhaps more important, that individuals and families have a good knowledge of how the community is going to react and what reasonable and sensible precautions they should take to minimize the impact of disaster. These precautions include family emergency plans, an understanding of actions to be taken in an emergency, good insurance coverage, and general alertness to our individual responsibilities to look after ourselves and our families.

The Alberta Government has what is considered by many to be one of the most advanced Disaster Assistance Programs to be found anywhere. This program helps people restore their lives and property following a genuine disaster which could not have been prevented or insured against. In 1988 we worked towards completing the administrative aspects of the massive disaster assistance programs approved by the government in 1986 and 1987 and, as well, managed the new programs approved in 1988.

The Dangerous Goods Control Program has now been fully developed and is moving into a strong enforcement mode. The Dangerous Goods Regulations which came into force in 1986 are among the most complex regulations in Canadian and Albertan legislative history. Alberta has taken a very proactive approach to these regulations by investing heavily in education and awareness programs for those that are affected by and must comply with the regulations. Our dangerous goods inspectors visited shipping, handling, offering, and transporting sites frequently to advise and assist those involved with dangerous goods on how they can fully comply with the regulations. The response has been very positive and, by and large, industry in Alberta has been extremely responsible in meeting their requirements under the regulations. That is not to say that there are no difficult areas; Public Safety Services will continue to actively seek out and address those areas that are not in full compliance.

The agency has undertaken an extensive program to assist in providing training packages and detailed training, not only for dangerous goods inspectors throughout the province, but also to assist industry in training their employees. This has been a cooperative effort that has involved community colleges and other learning institutions and we expect it will have a very positive impact on dangerous goods training in Alberta.

Public awareness of the movement of dangerous goods and hazardous wastes around and through their communities continues to increase. With this higher profile people will be more willing to participate in voluntary recycling and collection programs. Public Safety Services has participated in a number of awareness exercises to promote safe practices in this area. These initiatives, we hope, will enhance the safety of dangerous goods handling in Alberta.

The agency has undertaken a number of new initiatives to become more proactive, rather than reactive, in the whole field of public safety. In conjunction with Alberta Health we are developing Critical Incident Stress Debriefing resources which will be available in all regions of the province to help deal with stress trauma which affects emergency service workers and the victims of emergencies and disasters. We are introducing a new publication, Insight, which we hope will provide a more comprehensive forum for both the agency itself and its various publics to discuss critical issues. We are also producing a new set of information brochures on a variety of subjects related to public safety which are available to municipalities, industry and individual members of the public on request. We are improving the very close working relationships that we have with municipalities and industry in order to enhance our risk management programs across a broad range of public safety subjects. The government has introduced the Regional Response Improvement Program, on a trial basis, to encourage municipalities to acquire equipment and infrastructure which will enhance our emergency response capability in Alberta. Also we are very strongly promoting the Major Industrial Accident Coordinating Committee (MIACC), which is a voluntary and cooperative group of government, industry and special interest group members whose aim is to prevent, mitigate, and better respond to a major industrial accident in the province. This initiative cooperates very closely with similar initiatives at the national level.

The agency is greatly indebted to the large number of members of other government departments, volunteer groups, municipalities, and the general public who so readily contribute their time and energy in public safety programs. Without this massive contribution, we could do little.

DISASTER SERVICES DIVISION

Plans and Operations Branch

The Plans and Operations Branch is responsible for the development of operational concepts, policies, plans, procedures and exercises for government departments, industry and municipalities. As such it provides professional resources to industry, municipal, provincial and federal governments in the field of emergency preparedness and response to emergencies and disasters.

Two extraordinary events occurred in 1988 that prompted the activation of the Government Emergency Operations Centre. On June 5-6 a severe storm containing heavy rain, hail and reports of tornado sightings occurred in the central region of the province causing heavy damage to a number of farms and rural communities. On July 7-8 prolonged rainfall in the north-central part of the province caused severe flooding in the Town of Slave Lake and surrounding areas. In both cases, the Government Emergency Operations Centre was fully manned on a 24-hour basis to monitor the situation, respond to requests for assistance and provide information to queries from the general public and the media.

An Alternate Headquarters Relocation Plan was completed which provides for the rapid relocation of the main headquarters to the Training School. A Generic Dam Emergency Response Plan was completed that provides guidance to dam operators for development of dam emergency response plans, for both site-specific and off-site procedures. Plans are now available for the Oldman River coffer-dam, St. Mary's River and Shelburne dams. Negotiations were also held with British Columbia for Bennett Dam procedures. Communications continue to be a prime area of concern. A feasibility study was commissioned for a 911 type province-wide system and efforts continued on a Line Load Control program for Alberta.

Initiatives with the federal government included the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding on emergencies, consultations with the departments of Forestry and Agriculture for development of a Plant-Pest Emergency Response Plan and a contingency plan for COSMOS 1900. Negotiations are in the final stages with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development for extension of the Disaster Services Program to Indian bands in the province.

Other planning functions included an Alberta Support Plan for Search and Rescue Operations, school emergency planning and an Emergency Site Accreditation system. Operations staff provided assistance to the volunteer rescue team that responded to the Armenia earthquake. A computer program was also developed which provides dangerous goods movement information to municipalities to assist them in operational plan design.

Planning continued, in conjunction with federal authorities, on National Emergency Arrangements for emergency housing, food and energy during a national crisis. Continuity of government at the provincial level, updating of planning functions with other government departments and specifications for the Peace River Zone Emergency Government Headquarters were other areas pursued.

A list of significant emergencies and disasters that occurred in 88/89 can be found in Appendix IV of this report.

Disaster Health Services

Disaster Health Services assists health care facilities in the development and exercising of Mass Casualty Response and Evacuation Plans. A major program focus is in the delivery of disaster preparedness workshops, lectures and seminars for nurses throughout the province.

During the reporting period 1,020 persons participated in Health Service training programs (Appendix V).

Information films were shown in 34 locations, 8,756 pamphlets and brochures were distributed and 62,927 emergency passes were issued to health care facilities.

Disaster Health Services staff took part in the Emergency Symposium in Vancouver, the Alberta Hospital Association meeting in Edmonton, the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses meeting in Calgary, and the Critical Incident Stress Seminar in Edmonton.

Mock Disaster Exercises were held in 23 communities to test the effectiveness of Mass Casualty Response Plans and Evacuation Plans (Appendix VI).

One additional Mock Exercise was conducted at the Summer Village of Ma-Me-O Beach.

Disaster Health Services nominated 36 candidates to attend courses conducted at the Federal Study Centre in Arnprior, Ontario.

Disaster Health Services has responsibility for the management of a $6 million Emergency Medical Stockpile.

Inspections of the Emergency Medical Stockpile locations continue and equipment was loaned to the Edmonton Folk Music Festival and the Edmonton Birkebeiner Ski Event. Equipment was also loaned to Slave Lake Hospital after their July 6, 1988 flood.

Disaster Social Services

There were a considerable number of demands made of Disaster Social Services during the past 12 months. The branch was heavily involved in a number of forums that were set up in high schools and community centres to provide information on the subject of disaster related stress and the need to develop home emergency plans. The branch was also a participant on radio and television programs offering planning advice on the subject of preparing for emergencies. These activities were arranged in anticipation of "the anniversary effect" which would typically follow or occur after a disaster as devastating as the Edmonton tornado.

Disaster Social Services also managed the operations of the Emergency Relief Centre which was quickly established to meet the needs of the victims of the Slave Lake Flood of July 1988. It was also involved in the establishment of follow-up outreach programs which were delivered by the Slave Lake Health Unit and supported by nurses from other health units in the province sent in to assist. The branch was also involved in coordinating and assisting in the delivery of Critical Incident Stress Debriefings which were conducted for response personnel following the flood rescue operations.

A number of planning meetings were held on the subject of Disaster Social Services planning for municipalities, district offices of Alberta Family and Social Services and with Mental Health to discuss their role in disasters.

The development of a Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Program for Alberta has attracted considerable interest from various emergency service organizations throughout the province. A number of planning meetings have been held with administrators from fire departments, ambulance companies and Mental Health.

In response to critical incidents experienced by Emergency Services, some 20 Critical Incident

Stress Debriefings were provided by CISD trained Mental Health Services personnel and were coordinated by Disaster Social Services. A call to the APSS 24 hour number (1-800-422-9600) will result in a debriefing within 72 hours (optimum time) or sooner, if required.

Four two-day Disaster Social Services Training workshops were conducted at the APSS Training Facility. A total of 81 candidates attended, including municipal designers, personnel from Alberta Family and Social Services, and Mental Health therapists.

In-service seminars were carried out for the benefit of designated branch personnel at the following District Offices of Alberta Family and Social Services: Westlock, Lac La Biche, Athabasca, High Prairie, Whitecourt and Camrose.

In-service seminars were also carried out for municipal employees of the City of Calgary and the City of Lethbridge.

Planning meetings were held in Westlock, Lac La Biche, Athabasca, High Prairie, City of Calgary, City of Lethbridge, and with Edmonton Social Services and the Salvation Army.

Disaster Social Services also conducted awareness sessions on the subject of Critical Incident Stress at the Alberta/Montana Firefighter Instructors conference, Transport Canada (Airport Fire Chiefs) conference, and Alberta Fire Chiefs conference.

The branch head spoke on the development of the Alberta Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Program at a conference on the subject of Critical Incident Stress in Melbourne, Australia. At their request, in-service sessions on Critical Incident Stress were delivered to 10 fire departments, three towns and seven other industries or organizations.

Training workshops on the subject of Critical Incident Stress Debriefing were provided at the APSS Training Centre. These training workshops, completed by 221 candidates, were conducted with the support of Dr. Jeffrey Mitchell, University of Maryland (Baltimore). Dr. Mitchell has been instrumental in the development of successful CISD programs in the USA.

Other branch activities included the development of a docudrama on the subject of Critical Incident Stress for ACCESS-TV and Professions and Occupations Bureau; participation in various forums being conducted by the Alberta Mental Health Stress Management Team at various high schools and community centres in and around the City of Edmonton; preparation of a brochure *What Is A Tornado?* for distribution by the school board, Edmonton Board of Health and members of the Tornado Outreach program; and the production of written articles on the subject of Critical Incident Stress for publication in the periodical *A.A.O.A. Today* (Alberta Ambulance Operators Association).

Field Services Branch

The Disaster Field Services Branch is responsible for the delivery of APSS programs to municipalities, industry and other agencies throughout the province. The branch administers the programs regionally through district offices located in Grande Prairie, Edmonton, St. Paul, Camrose, Red Deer, Calgary and Lethbridge.

District officers completed 1,011 visits to municipalities to assist local authorities in the development and coordination of peacetime emergency preparedness activities. Each municipal emergency plan was reviewed, hazard analyses updated and the plan amended as required. Emergency Preparedness Surveys for municipalities were completed in conjunction with municipal Directors of Disaster Services. These surveys provide local officials with detailed information on the status of emergency preparedness in their communities and include recommendations for enhancing emergency response capabilities.

District staff participated in 47 planning meetings to coordinate the community response to a mass casualty incident, and assisted in the conduct of 19 mass casualty exercises designed to train municipal emergency response resources and evaluate the effectiveness of their plan. In addition, 58 peacetime emergency plan simulation exercises were conducted to train municipal officials and emergency response personnel. Following the exercises, peacetime plans were evaluated and updated as required.

District staff continued their emphasis on emergency preparedness in the industrial and petrochemical sectors. Working in conjunction with the Canadian Chemical Producers Association, Community Awareness and Emergency Response (CAER), Strathcona District Mutual Aid Plan and Fort Saskatchewan Industrial and Regional Mutual Aid Organization, they have assisted in the integration of municipal and industrial plans. Staff also participated in eight sour gas plant emergency response plan reviews.

Disaster assistance registrations associated with severe weather in east-central Alberta in June, the Slave Lake flood in July and the Calgary flood in August required all available Disaster Field Services resources throughout the summer months with a resultant reduction in other normal field activities.

The recovery, overhaul and central storage of radiation monitoring equipment from municipalities continues. This equipment will remain in central storage until it is required.

Rescue kits were issued to 21 municipalities whose disaster services organizations have shown notable progress in improving their rescue service. The rescue kit, valued at $3,600, contains a portable generator and lighting system to illuminate the scene of rescue operations, a hydraulic rescue set, a come-along, a set of block and tackle, chains, ropes, stretchers and blankets. This year rescue kits were issued to the villages of Fort Assiniboine, Galahad, Innisfree, Irricana, Vilna, Donnelly, Cremona, Ryley, Clyde, Hairy Hill, Amisk and Glenwood; the towns of Bashaw, Stony Plain and Bow Island; Improvement Districts #17 (Grouard) and #7 (Rosedale); the County of Strathcona #20 and Municipal Districts of Clearwater #99, Acadia #34 and Bighorn #8.

Disaster Field Services assumed a major new initiative with the introduction on a trial basis of the Regional Response Improvement Program in June. This program is designed to assist municipalities with funding for projects which will develop or enhance regional emergency response capabilities. In this first trial year of the program, eight projects with a total value of $760,429 were approved. The program cost shares projects among municipal, provincial and federal governments.

Disaster Assistance

The Alberta Disaster Assistance Program, administered by the Disaster Assistance Branch, responds to extraordinary emergency operations and resulting restoration expenditures and other financial burdens of loss and damage caused by a disastrous event.

The 1987 Disaster Assistance Program for the City of Edmonton tornado and the accompanying severe weather in the northern half of the province continued throughout the past year. Some 1,557 applications were received of which 1,041 were eligible for assistance, including 214 business applicants. This program is nearly completed, however a number of business applications under the Industrial Recovery Assistance Program will not be finalized until at least 1991.

A severe spring snowstorm on March 27, 1988 seriously affected a number of municipalities in south-central Alberta. Assistance was provided to those municipalities who rescued and sheltered stranded travellers and whose equipment assisted in keeping open provincial highways. Eleven

municipalities received assistance as a direct result of this unusually heavy late spring storm.

April 1988 saw a resumption of weather-related incidents including wind damage to farm buildings and a brush fire in the County of Athabasca. In May and June, as a result of a very dry spring, there were a number of brush fires which affected the counties of Parkland, Athabasca and Strathcona and the City of Stony Plain. In addition, 36 applications for disaster assistance were received due to wind damage to farm buildings from across the province.

A Disaster Assistance Program was approved for south, central and eastern areas of the province as a result of severe weather that occurred in June 4-11, 1988. A total of 824 applications were registered for assistance. As of March 31, 1989, 589 applications have received assistance for uninsurable loss and damage. A second Disaster Assistance Program was approved for the County of Flagstaff and the Municipal Districts of Wainwright and Taber because of the severe weather that occurred June 28 and 29. Of the 238 applications, some 163 have received assistance as of March 31, 1989.

July 1988 was particularly busy. The first half of the month saw a significant increase in applications, for both wind and flood damage, from the northern half of the province as a result of severe weather including heavy rains. A Disaster Assistance Program was approved for the Slave Lake, Kinuso, Driftpile and I.D. 17 (East) areas as a result of heavy flooding July 6 and 7. A total of 842 applications for assistance have been received and, as of March 31, 1989, 616 have received assistance grants.

Very heavy rains on August 16 caused flooding in the northeast area of the City of Calgary. A Disaster Assistance Program was authorized and 754 applications were received. A significant number of residences suffered basement structural damage. After inspection and based upon recommendations from a consulting engineer, disaster assistance payments have been made to assist homeowners who are in turn responsible to repair their own damaged basements. The City of Calgary program has, as of March 31, 1989, assisted 593 individuals and 44 business applicants.

A review of the Disaster Assistance Program was conducted in March 1989 by representatives of the Disaster Assistance Committee and senior representatives from key departments generally involved with the program. The disaster assistance programs, which have become significantly larger and more complex in recent years, were examined in detail. The result will be an updated version of the program guidelines.

A notable addition to the Disaster Assistance Program is a special provision for Catastrophic Loss. This was introduced during the 1987 Edmonton tornado and has been refined over the past two years. Essentially, loss and damage must be so devastating that restoration of a home or business is virtually impossible. Under these extraordinary circumstances the provision of this special category of assistance may be authorized at the discretion of the Minister.

Many of the applications for disaster assistance which do not fall within approved programs are dealt with as Isolated Cases. As a general guideline these applications are not eligible for assistance unless the loss and damage was so devastating that the individual or business (including farms) is unable to survive financially as a direct result of a disastrous event. All applications are carefully investigated by the appropriate government departments to verify the circumstances and reviewed by a Disaster Assistance Committee to determine eligibility for assistance.

Some of the foregoing programs which involve major and widespread loss and damage will be eligible for cost sharing under the federal government Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA). This cost sharing is based on provincial

population figures, and when approved the province is responsible for the first $1 per capita; the next $2 is shared 50%; the following $2 is shared 25% by the province, 75% by the federal government; and of the remainder 90% is the federal government share.

TRAINING DIVISION

Training Division is responsible for developing, organizing and delivering Alberta Public Safety Services training courses. The division operates a central training school and also provides extension courses throughout the province.

The division was reorganized during the year. The old training branches for Disaster Services and Dangerous Goods training were combined into one branch under a Manager, Training Delivery. A second branch, headed by a Manager, Training Research & Development, is responsible for the review and upgrading of existing training and the development of new programs, training techniques and training aids.

The Emergency Site Management course, first delivered last year, headed the courses offered at the central school in Edmonton. Disaster Services related courses included Municipal Disaster Services Program Management, Dangerous Goods Instructors Orientation, Rescue Leaders, Disaster Health Services and Disaster Social Services.

A Dangerous Goods Control central course for carriers and shippers employed by the provincial government was presented. This course was also presented as an extension course. On Highways Dangerous Goods Inspector training continued and a new program to train Fire Services Inspectors as Dangerous Goods Facilities Inspectors was started. The branch also offered special dangerous goods awareness training, concentrating on officer safety for Edmonton Police Department recruits.

The Dangerous Goods Awareness extension course was updated and shortened to a one evening presentation. This approach will enable the division to deliver more of these courses at a lower cost.

Training Division also oversees the administration of Alberta residents attending Emergency Preparedness Canada training courses at Arnprior, Ontario. Courses relating to emergency response preparedness were attended by 189 candidates.

An important part of any emergency plan and in any training course are the simulated exercises. These exercises expose any weakness in the emergency plan and highlight the training received. This exercise illustrates the main players in any emergency gathered around the operational map where the minute by minute updates are recorded.

DANGEROUS GOODS CONTROL DIVISION

Responsibilities

The Dangerous Goods Control Division has responsibility for administration of the provincial Transportation of Dangerous Goods Control Act. This Act regulates the handling, offering for transport and the actual transportation of dangerous goods on Alberta's highways. Through agreement with Transport Canada, the division also administers highway mode requirements for such shipments being transported into, through, and out of the province under the federal Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act.

Legislation

The Alberta legislation is fully consistent and compatible with federal legislation which is used to regulate similar activities with respect to the air, rail and marine modes of transport as well as the extra-provincial movement by highways. The Dangerous Goods Control Division works very closely with Transport Canada and other provincial and territorial jurisdictions in an effort to ensure national uniformity in relation to all laws covering the movement of dangerous goods.

The legislation defines a dangerous good as being any product, substance or organism specified in the regulations or included by its nature in any of the classes prescribed. The 3,476 products, substances and organisms which are regulated fall into one or more of the nine internationally recognized classes of dangerous goods. The nine classes are:

- Class 1 — explosives;
- Class 2 — gases: compressed, deeply refrigerated liquefied or dissolved under pressure;
- Class 3 — flammable and combustible liquids;
- Class 4 — flammable solids, substances liable to spontaneous combustion, and substances that on contact with water emit flammable gases;
- Class 5 — oxidizing substances and organic peroxides;
- Class 6 — poisonous and infectious substances;
- Class 7 — radioactive materials;
- Class 8 — corrosives;
- Class 9 — miscellaneous products, substances or organisms considered dangerous to life, health, property or the environment when handled, offered for transport or transported.

The legislation prescribes the manner in which dangerous goods are classified and requires that vehicles transporting quantities which constitute a hazard be identified by a safety marking system which immediately indicates the nature of those hazards to emergency response personnel. Additional requirements cover explanatory documentation which must accompany the shipment; markings and specifications for packaging and other containers; reporting procedures in the event of an accidental spill, emission or discharge; safety procedures which must be followed; special training which must be undertaken by shippers and carriers as well as a variety of other requirements designed to enhance public safety during the entire transportation process.

Program Implementation

From the inception of the program, the Dangerous Goods Control Division has encouraged industry to voluntarily comply with the legislation, which came into effect in Alberta on February 1, 1986. The regulations are very complex.

During the early stages of implementation of the program, detected non-compliance was, in most instances, dealt with by educating violators of their relatively new responsibilities under the law. Prosecution, however, has been increasingly used as a more dramatic means of gaining the attention of persistent violators. Warning notices may be issued when violations are detected. They serve as a means of formally notifying the violator of the specific offence committed; as a mechanism for follow-up investigation with employers, shippers or other jurisdictions; and as a method of tracking repeat offenders. During 1988/89, a total of 308 warning notices were issued to various shippers and carriers throughout Alberta.

Prosecution was used much more extensively during 1988/89. Charges were laid whenever flagrant or repetitive violations were encountered. Prosecution was also used whenever the investigation of an accident, in which dangerous goods were involved, revealed that non-compliance with the legislation was a contributing factor or could have potentially endangered life, property or the environment. During the fiscal year, Alberta courts handed down substantial fines for 74 charges which were laid under the provincial Transportation of Dangerous Goods Control Act and the federal Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act.

Resources

In order to carry out its mandate, the Dangerous Goods Control Division operates four branches. The Facilities Inspection Branch is responsible for inspections of those facilities at which dangerous goods are offered for transport, incident investigations, and other follow-up investigations throughout the province. The On-Highway Inspection Branch facilitates the conduct of carrier inspections. The Compliance Information Centre provides technical support to the program generally, assists industry in achieving compliance with the legislation, assists enforcement personnel in the interpretation of the more complex aspects of the legislation, provides technical expertise on regulated products to emergency response personnel, and performs other APSS oriented functions. The Regulatory Standards and Approvals Branch is responsible for the issuance of permits under the regulations, the processing of municipal by-laws for ministerial approval, and the coordination of the regulatory amendment process with respect to both the federal and provincial legislation.

Facilities Inspection Branch

Shipper inspections and enforcement are carried out by seven full time Dangerous Goods Inspectors located at Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary and Lethbridge. There are two inspectors in both our Edmonton and Calgary District Offices. Within APSS, an additional 13 people have been fully trained and designated as Dangerous Goods Inspectors in order to ensure the availability of appropriate expertise in the event of an emergency involving dangerous goods.

The prime function of the seven operational Facilities Inspectors is the inspection of shippers' facilities in an effort to ensure compliance with the legislation. These inspectors also conduct follow-up investigations whenever a highway offence is identified, if that offence indicates that a shipper may also be in violation. Corrective action is taken whenever such investigations confirm non-compliance on the part of the shipper. During 1988/89, the Facilities Inspection Branch conducted 2,008 site visitations of shippers' facilities at various locations throughout Alberta. In addition, they conducted 110 follow-up investigations on suspected shipper offences identified by the On-Highway Inspectors as well as those identified by jurisdictions outside Alberta. Thirty-four charges against shippers were dealt with in the courts during the fiscal year resulting in fines which averaged $452.21.

Whenever it is feasible to do so, Facilities

Inspectors attend the scenes of accidents in which dangerous goods are involved in a spill, emission or discharge during the course of handling, offering for transport or transportation. Their primary function in such cases is to provide technical assistance to the local emergency response personnel who are directly responsible for mitigating the incident. Once this has been done, the secondary focus of the inspector is concentrated on determining whether or not there is any indication of non-compliance with the legislation and the identification of any factors which might lead to a reduction in the likelihood of recurrence. Data gathered as a result of these efforts revealed that the number of incidents in which the courier industry was involved was significantly higher than should be expected on the basis of the volume of shipments they were handling. As a result, an information package was prepared and distributed to the courier industry and other compliance initiatives were directed toward some of their operations. The frequency of their involvement in such incidents during the latter portion of the fiscal year was substantially reduced.

On-Highway Inspection Branch

On-highway inspections and enforcement functions are performed by various personnel from existing enforcement agencies as an extension of their regular duties. Members of these enforcement agencies are given comprehensive training designed and/or delivered by APSS personnel. They are then formally designated as Dangerous Goods Inspectors under the provincial Act prior to actually performing such duties. As of March 31, 1989, 708 On-Highway Inspectors were located throughout Alberta. The On-Highway Inspectors perform an extremely important function in relation to effective program delivery. In addition to correcting problems which exist during the actual transportation phase of operations, their activities identify numerous shippers who are not complying so that the Facilities Inspectors are able to focus on them. Forty charges laid against carriers resulted in fines averaging $376.25 during 1988/89.

Compliance Information Centre

Encouraging industry to voluntarily comply with the legislation continues to be a major component of program delivery. This philosophy is practised at all levels within the Dangerous Goods Control Division. The Compliance Information Centre (CIC) is the most readily available resource to industry in determining the requirements of the law as it applies to their particular scope of operations. It is staffed by fully trained technical personnel supported by extensive data resources. The CIC maintains a 24 hour toll free telephone service which handles enquiries from both shippers and carriers about the shipping and transportation of dangerous goods by the air, rail and marine modes as well as the highway mode. Enquiries relate to local, national and international shipments and frequently involve intermodal consignments. During fiscal 1988/89, the CIC responded to 11,603 such enquiries. These included 1,777 calls as part of a service started in 1987/88 to respond to questions about Alberta's hazardous waste management system. This relatively new function is performed on behalf of Alberta Environment and the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation.

In addition to fielding dangerous goods questions, the CIC receives reports on dangerous occurrences, that is, accidental spills, emissions or discharges of dangerous goods for which reporting is required under the regulations. During 1988/89, 184 dangerous goods incidents involving the highway mode were reported to the CIC. This compares with 203 such reports during 1987/88. The CIC also acts as the province's Emergency Centre, a function of Disaster Services Division of APSS. They responded to 63 Disaster Services incidents during the fiscal year in that role.

The CIC continued to prepare, update and distribute interpretive bulletins for both industry and enforcement agencies during the fiscal year. CIC personnel also participated in many seminars and conferences designed to increase industry's awareness and understanding of the legislation.

CIC staff continued to be heavily committed to many computer related projects during 1988/89. These included a major revision of the Dangerous Goods Information System as well as the initial design and development of the Emergency Response Information Coordination System for the Disaster Services Division.

Regulatory Standards and Approvals Branch

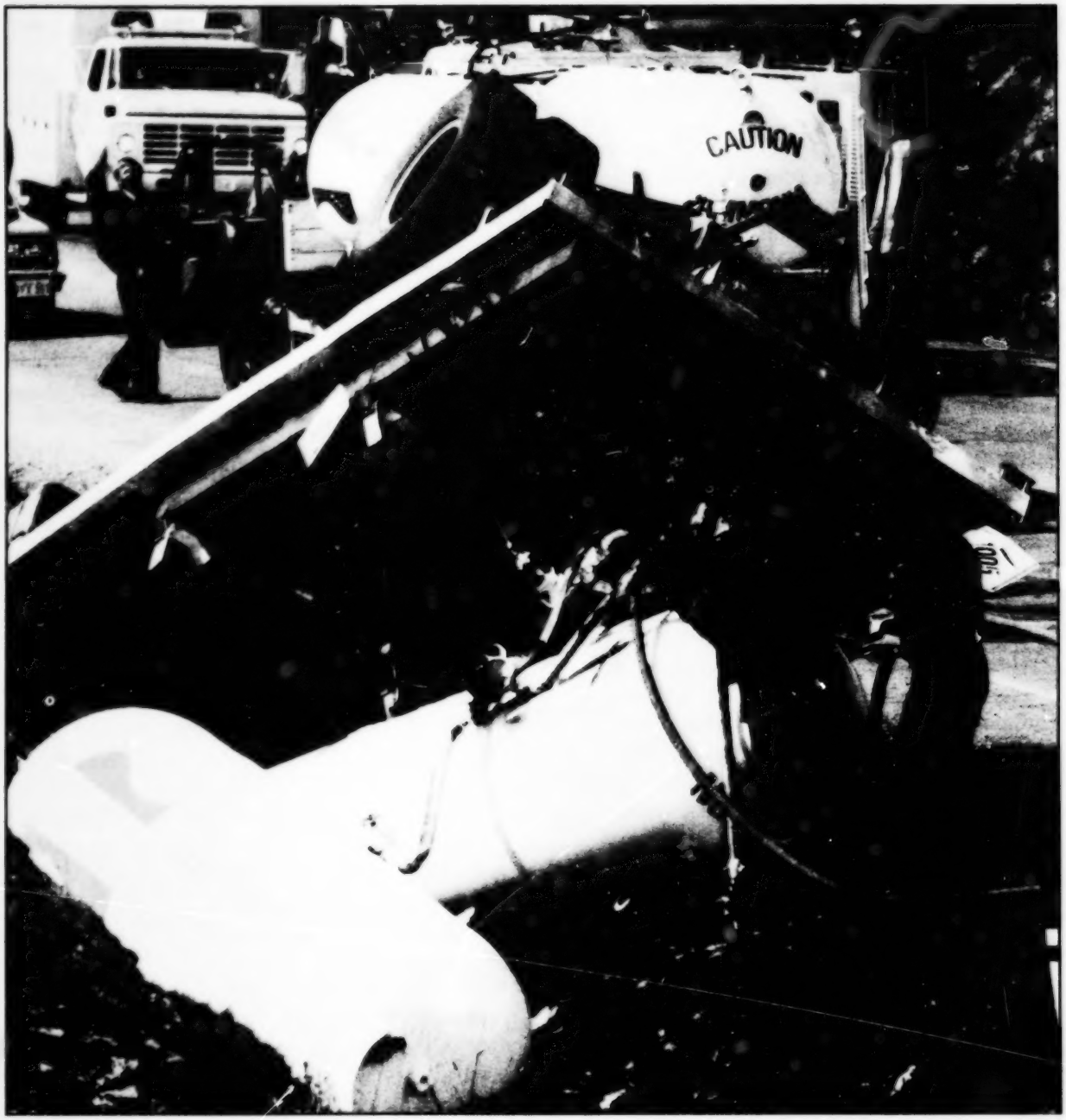
This branch develops standards for possible inclusion in the federal legislation and consequent adoption under the provincial regulations. The branch serves as a sounding board for industry, government and the general public with respect to specific requirements for compliance with the applicable legislation as well as a conduit for regulatory amendment proposals. It also coordinates the provision of legal services, including those provided by the provincial Attorney General's Department and the federal Department of Justice, in matters related to administration and enforcement of the legislation. In addition, the branch administers the provincial permit issuance system under the legislation. Permits can be issued in circumstances under which it is extremely difficult or impossible to fully comply with the letter of the law for a variety of reasons or where it can be shown that an equivalent level of safety can be achieved by some method not recognized in the regulations. Permit applications are reviewed in consultation with all affected parties including the federal and other provincial governments in an effort to ensure national uniformity. The prime consideration in assessing any permit application continues to be that industry is not unduly impacted by the requirements of the legislation provided always that public safety is not compromised by any relaxation of those requirements. During 1988/89, 457 permits were issued including one oral permit. Oral permits are only granted in cases of an emergency.

The branch also processed five municipal by-laws for ministerial approval during the fiscal year.

Municipalities are authorized under the Act to pass by-laws in relation to dangerous goods routes within their communities, but such by-laws are subject to the approval of the Minister. This procedure ensures that one municipality does not simply transfer its problems to a neighbouring community and also that the continuity of the provincial transportation system is not unnecessarily altered. The process also provides a mechanism to achieve a degree of uniformity with respect to dangerous goods routing by-laws throughout the province. The branch assists municipalities in conducting analysis as to the appropriateness of imposing such restrictions within their respective communities and in drafting proposed by-laws in accordance with nationally adopted criteria. By-laws for the cities of Fort McMurray, Fort Saskatchewan, and St. Albert, the Town of Bonnyville, and the County of Strathcona received ministerial approval during 1988/89. Eleven Alberta municipalities now have dangerous goods routing by-laws in force. In addition, the Regulatory Standards and Approvals Branch assisted 16 other municipalities during the various drafting stages of their respective by-laws.

Compliance Information Centre Statistics

Month	Enquiries	Dangerous Goods Incidents	Disaster Services Incidents
April/88	653	26	5
May/88	703	19	6
June/88	835	25	9
July/88	878	20	9
August/88	829	11	8
September/88	918	11	4
October/88	837	16	3
November/88	1495	6	4
December/88	1389	7	6
January/89	1341	9	4
February/89	763	17	1
March/89	962	17	4
Totals 88/89	**11,603**	**184**	**63**



Whenever there is an accident on the highways in Alberta involving Dangerous Goods, one or more of the over 700 trained Dangerous Goods Inspectors will go to the site to ascertain whether or not the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Control Act has been complied with.

Both the 24 Hour Compliance Information Centre and the Dangerous Goods Inspectors are able to advise which procedure should be followed during the recovery process following spills of dangerous goods.

PROGRAM SUPPORT DIVISIONS

Administration Division

The Administration Division provides support in the design, development and implementation of a records management program, the acquisition and maintenance of office accommodation, equipment, and communications. The division is also responsible for purchasing for the department, the provision of office supplies, mail and messenger services, as well as the development of the Department Policy and Procedures Manual.

Personnel Division

In addition to its normal functions (payroll administration, recruitment and selection, classification, employee and labour relations, etc.), the Personnel Division assisted staff to achieve branch and agency goals by helping them obtain the desired, and required, staff development and training. As a result, 55 staff members attended 34 courses sponsored by the Personnel Administration Office and Public Works, Supply and Services; 74 attended an Effective Writing Seminar that was designed to meet the special needs of the agency; 24 attended a half day seminar on AIDS; one employee was on education leave; two more attended courses through the Faculty of Extension at the University of Alberta; and 14 employees attended a variety of seminars and conferences.

In the Recruitment and Selection area, a total of 12 persons were recruited for permanent positions during the year. There was one person hired under the Quebec/Alberta Exchange Program, eight people under the Summer Temporary Employment Program and five under the Priority Employment Program. There was a significant amount of classification activity during the year. A total of 34 positions were considered for classification action or were updated.

Communications Group

The Communications Group consists of a Director of Communications and an Assistant, Graphic Services and a Print Shop. The group is responsible for establishing and maintaining good relations with the media and for answering public and media inquiries.

Media inquiries in response to the floods in Slave Lake and Calgary and the severe storms in central and southern Alberta were numerous. At the same time the media proved that they can and will help serve the public by transmitting life saving messages in an emergency situation. Every radio and television outlet in Alberta has received a tape which can be immediately broadcast telling the listeners what precautions to take should there be any type of severe weather warning. Special posters were issued to all media outlets for placing in the newsrooms so that instant advice to the public on personal safety can be provided, should a tornado warning be issued.

An 18 minute video featuring Kevin Lowe, a well known Edmonton Oiler star, was produced dealing with severe winter weather. Over 400 Alberta schools had copies made for them at no cost. The branch also helped to copy and distribute over 250 copies of an Environment Canada video called *Stay Alert — Stay Alive*.

The first edition of a new agency quarterly publication called *Insight* was extremely well received throughout North America. *Insight* replaces *News and Notes* and *HOTline*.

The agency took part in 12 exhibitions concerned with Disaster Services and the Transportation of Dangerous Goods. The exhibitions are seen by the public and in particular by the specialized

publics with whom Alberta Public Safety Services work on a day-to-day basis.

During the year a variety of speaking platforms were arranged in Alberta, other parts of Canada and in the United States. The Managing Director and other members of the Senior Management Team spoke about the activities of the agency. This program will be expanded in the future.

There were four re-opening events of commercial premises destroyed during the 1987 tornado. They were attended by the Minister and on one occasion by the Premier.

A major event was the memorial service held in the presence of the Premier, Cabinet members, and church and municipal leaders at Evergreen Mobile Home Community. This event, held exactly one year after the tornado struck the community, was attended by several hundred residents and victims of the tornado from Edmonton and Strathcona County. A memorial park with 27 trees representing the 27 people who lost their lives in the tragedy, was dedicated at this ceremony.

Library

In April 1988, Alberta Public Safety Services received funding assistance from Emergency Preparedness Canada under the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program to hire a part-time librarian to expand the agency library. This expansion was undertaken to fulfill a need for readily available information in Alberta pertaining to preparedness and response to man-made or natural emergencies and disasters, including incidents involving dangerous goods.

Since the project's inception, the agency library has been developed and expanded to become the only information resource of its kind in Alberta and possibly Canada. Close to 4,000 items and over 100 serials on disaster assistance, health services, social services, transportation of dangerous goods and natural hazards are made available to all government agencies, industry, academia and the public. The library staff also offers a number of services to its clientele including research services, current awareness updates, interlibrary loan and a fully automated catalogue of library holdings.

Throughout the fiscal year the agency and its librarian have been promoting this unique information centre across North America. The results have been notable. The library was accepted into the Alberta Government Libraries Council late in the year and its services are now available to all other provincial government libraries. There has been an increase in requests for service from across Canada and the United States and from other parts of the world.

The earlier perception by the agency of a need for this type of information resource has been justified. In the course of this fiscal year the library has moved from being an in-house service to one of national and even international importance. The agency will continue to develop the library and preparations for hiring a full-time librarian are underway.

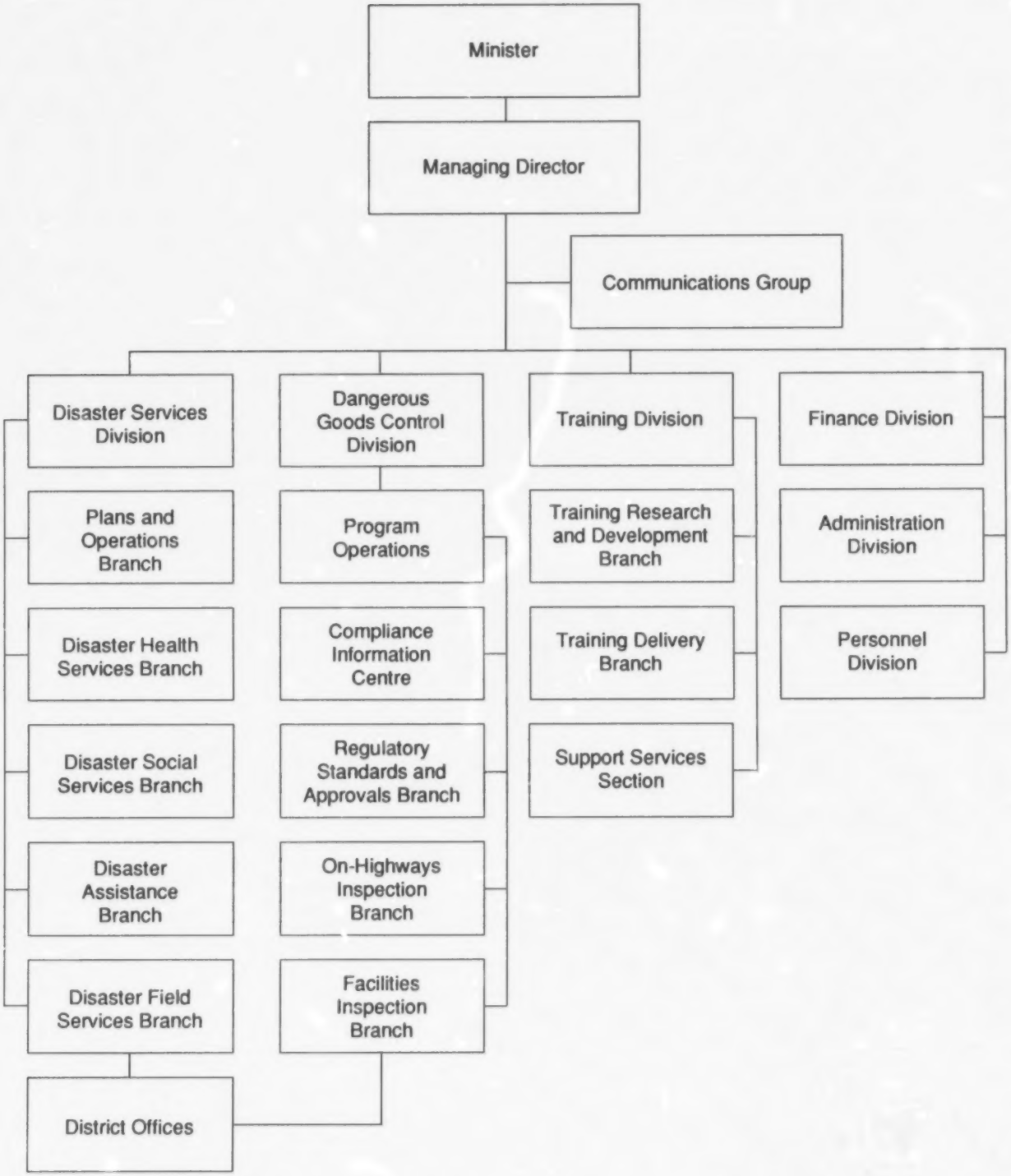
Appendix I Program Expenditures

	Provincial Expenditures 1987/88	Federal Contributions To Provincial Expenditures 1987/88	Provincial Expenditures 1988/89	Federal Contributions To Provincial Expenditures 1988/89
Program Cost (excluding Disaster Assistance)	4,220,271	457,413 *	4,353,655	438,651
Disaster Assistance Program	53,214,439	22,000,000 **	22,323,580	
Related Alberta Government Services Expenditure	34,451	7500	34,451	7500
Total	**$57,469,161**	**$22,464,913**	**$26,711,686**	**$446,151**

* Cost-sharing arrangements with the Government of Canada under the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program.

** Advance on damage caused to public and private property by the Tornado/Severe Weather System of July 31, 1987 — August 3, 1989 under the Disaster Financial Assistance Program.

Appendix II Department Overview



Appendix III Legislation

Alberta Public Safety Services is responsible for the administration of the following acts and regulations:

The Public Safety Services Act,
Revised Statutes of Alberta 1985

— Alberta Regulation 321/85, the Disaster Assistance Regulation

— Alberta Regulation 112/77 Emergency Planning Regulation

— Alberta Regulation 380/85 Emergency Government Areas Regulation

— Alberta Regulation 307/77 Emergency Services Regulation

The Transportation of Dangerous Goods Control Act 1982

— Alberta Regulation 383/85, Transportation of Dangerous Goods Control Regulation

— Alberta Regulation 37/86, Administration Regulation

Appendix IV Emergency Response Report Summary

1. Sour Gas Release — Turner Valley — 11 April 1988

   A pipeline leak occurred at the east end of the town. Petro Canada shut down the line and repaired the leak. No evacuation necessary.

2. Forest Fire — Caslan — 14 April 1988

   Forest fire prompted the evacuation of the Caslan school.

3. Ground Fire — Stony Plain — 15 April 1988

   Brush and peat fire near the town caused smoke problems, evacuation of hospital respiratory patients and vent system shut down.

4. Ammonia Release — MacLennan — 21 April 1988

   Small cloud of anhydrous ammonia was released during material transfer. One nearby resident affected but evacuation not necessary.

5. Train Derailment — Bruderheim — 23 April 1988

   Four cars containing lumber and ammonium phosphate derailed near Bruderheim. No danger to residents.

6. Forest Fire — Athabasca — 28 April 1988

   Forest fire and three smaller fires forced evacuation of three residents. State of Local Emergency declared. Fire lines established. Water bombers, water trucks, and 150 firemen contained the fires.

7. Anhydrous Ammonia Leak — Innisfail — 28 April 1988

   A hose parted during filling operations and caused cloud to move into edge of town. Two people transferred to hospital.

8. Brush Fire — County of Strathcona — 21 May 1988

   Brush fire in county prompted a declaration of state of Local Emergency. Residents were evacuated, water bombers and fire department contained fires.

9. Forest Fires — Sunchild/O'Chiese Reserves — 25 May 1988

   Large forest fire north of Rocky Mountain House forced evacuation of 600 Reserve residents. Rocky Mountain House established registration and reception facilities.

10. Thunderstorm — East Central Alberta — 5 June 1988

    Severe storm with tornados passed through east central Alberta causing wide-spread damage. Government Emergency Operations Centre activated.

11. Sour Gas Release — Whitecourt —23 June 1988

    Pipeline leak in isolated area. Line de-pressurized and leak repaired.

12. Flooding — Slave Lake — 6 July 1988

    Sawridge Creek caused a major flood in the Town of Slave Lake. The Government Emergency Operations Centre was activated. A Disaster Victims Assistance Centre was established. Flooding also occurred in Kinuso, Driftpile and Wabasca.

13. Train Derailment — Grainger Crossing — 8 July 1988

    12 railway cars, some of which had previously contained propylene, derailed near Acme causing the evacuation of three residences.

14. Storm — Wetaskiwin — 12 July 1988

    A severe storm caused flooding of sewers, homes and property.

15. Sour Gas Release — Erskine — 13 July 1988

    Sour gas caused a fine spray of oil to cover local residences, animals and crop lands.

16. Flooding — City of Calgary — 16 August 1988

    Severe thunderstorms caused heavy flooding in eastern portions of the city. Disaster assistance registration centre established.

17. Sour Gas Release — Fox Creek — 18 August 1988

    Short duration sour gas leak from pipeline. Line de-pressurized and leak repaired.

18. Sour Gas Release — Alix — 29 August 1988

    Uncontrolled flow from a working well. 50 residents evacuated. Main control headquarters established in Red Deer.

19. Pyridine Spill — Edmonton — 2 September 1988

    Spill occurred at local business and 16 people sent to hospital for observation.

20. Sour Gas Release — Waterton Park — 7 September 1988

    Well circulation lost during servicing. Circulation restored.

21. Curling Arena Fire — Calmar — 26 November 1988

    Fire had potential for release of Freon 22. Approximately 25 people in immediate area evacuated. Arena destroyed.

22. Earthquake — Armenia — 10 December 1988

    Assistance provided to a group of 30 rescue workers responding to the earthquake in Armenia.

23. Sulphur Fire — Calgary — 16 March 1989

    Fire caused the release of toxic fumes. Approximately 60 people evacuated as precaution.

Disaster Health Services Tables

Appendix V Health Service Training Programs

Program		No. of Candidates
1.	Mass Casualty Preparedness Workshops (10)	488
2.	Disaster Health Planning Seminars (2)	45
3.	Basic Casualty Simulation Courses (2)	25
4.	Lectures (10)	384
5.	Emergency Hospital Training Exercise (1)	78
	Total	**1,020**

Appendix VI Mock Disaster Exercises

Date	City/Town
06 April 1988	Radway
07 April 1988	Edmonton — Extendicare North Nursing Home
27 April 1988	Killam
29 April 1988	St. Albert
04 May 1988	Claresholm
11 May 1988	Trochu
12 May 1988	Stettler
18 May 1988	Daysland
24 May 1988	Ponoka
25 May 1988	Tofield
02 June 1988	Edmonton — Good Samaritan South Care Centre
15 September 1988	Edmonton — Good Samaritan Mt. Pleasant Care Centre
21 September 1988	Peace River
27 September 1988	Two Hills
28 September 1988	Willingdon
29 September 1988	Mundare
04 October 1988	Milk River
05 October 1988	Cardston
06 October 1988	Pincher Creek
02 November 1988	Jasper
03 November 1988	Edson
08 November 1988	Edmonton — Extendicare South Nursing Home
22 March 1989	Stony Plain

Appendix VII Central Courses

Type of Course	1987/88 Number of Courses	1987/88 Number of Candidates	1988/89 Number of Courses	1988/89 Number of Candidates
Rescue Leaders	3	60	3	64
Disaster Social Services	2	34	4	81
Municipal Disaster Services	3	73	3	67
Program Management				
Dangerous Goods Instructors' Orientation	2	48	2	44
Dangerous Goods Safety Orientation	1	11	1	4
Emergency Government Preparedness	1	45	0	0
Radiological Defence Officers	1	11	0	0
Disaster Health Services Seminar	2	45	2	45
Casualty Simulation	1	10	0	0
On-Highways Inspectors	1	10	2	38
Emergency Site Management	1	29	2	56
Critical Incident Stress Seminar	1	102	1	107
2nd Responders to Dangerous Goods	1	16	0	0
Sour Gas Seminar	0	0	1	40
Radioactive Materials (Awareness Seminar)	0	0	1	70
Dangerous Goods Shippers & Carriers	0	0	5	83
Total	**20**	**494**	**27**	**699**

Appendix VIII Extension Courses

Type of Course	1987/88 Number of Courses	1987/88 Number of Candidates	1988/89 Number of Courses	1988/89 Number of Candidates
Basic Rescue	30	392	29	389
Dangerous Goods Awareness	22	426	28	492
On-Highways Inspectors	22	194	8	87
Vehicle Inspection Safety	1	3	0	0
Dangerous Goods Tow Truck Awareness	1	12	0	0
Dangerous Goods Compliance Awareness	10	212	0	0
Dangerous Goods Safety Orientation	5	83	2	73
Mass Casualty Preparedness Workshop	15	866	10	488
Community Health Disaster Planning Lecture	15	776	10	384
Casualty Simulation	1	5	2	25
Compliance Information Officers (Correspondence)	ongoing	6	ongoing	6
Full-time Dangerous Goods Inspectors (Correspondence)	ongoing	15	ongoing	9
Emergency Hospital (200 bed) Exercise	1	53	1	78
Disaster Social Services Seminar	12	260	8	64
Critical Incident Stress Awareness (In Service)	25	899	34	643
Dangerous Goods Carriers	0	0	4	55
Total	**160**	**4202**	**136**	**2793**

Appendix IX Courses Outside of Alberta

Course	Number of Courses	Number of Candidates
EPC — Plans & Operations (Peace)	12	25
EP/HWC — Health Services Planning (Community)	6	24
EP/HWC — Social Services Planning (Community)	8	21
EPC — Mayors & Elected Officials	9	21
EPC — Exercise Design	5	15
EPC — Public Information Planning	1	2
EPC — EOC Course	5	16
EPC — Radiological Defence Officers	2	4
EPC — Instructors Special Care Facility	1	1
EPC/TPT CDA — DG Emergency Seminar	1	4
EPC — Exercise Design (French)	2	2
EPC — Mayors & Elected Officials (French)	1	1
EPC — National Agricultural Emergency Management Workshop	1	3
EPC — Emergency Communications Course	1	1
EPC — Course Administration Seminar	1	2
EPC — Emergency Site Management Course	4	11
EPC — Fed./Prov. Training Conference	1	1
EPC — Emergency Public Information Group	1	1
EPC — Symposium 1988 — Crisis Management in a Changing Environment	1	4
EP/HWC — Fed./Prov. Emergency Services Directors' Meeting	1	6
EP/AGR — Em. Preparedness Canada — Agriculture National Plant Pest Emergency Seminar	1	9
EP/HWC — Casualty Simulation Instructor Course	1	2
EPC — Emergency Public Information Course	1	3
EP/AGR — Canada Agriculture Planning Seminar	1	3
EP/HWC — Mass Casualty Care & Triage	1	2
EPC — School Board Emergency Planning Workshop	1	3
EPC — Plans & Operations (War)	1	2
Total	**71**	**189**